

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03291 230607Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
-----026146 230609Z /11

P 220507Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5778
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3291

USMTN
DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, NZ, JA
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND-JAPAN TRADE POLICY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 02782, (B) TOKYO 09359

BEGIN SUMMARY. GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND (GNZ) IS
ANXIOUSLY AWAITING WORD AS TO WHETHER JAPANESE
AGRICULTURAL MINISTER WILL VISIT HERE FOLLOWING TRADE
TALKS IN AUSTRALIA. THE GNZ STILL FINDS THE JAPANESE
POSITION UNACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. UNCERTAINTY ABOUNDS IN THE PRESS AND GOVERNMENTAL
CIRCLES HERE AS TO WHETHER AGRICULTURE MINISTER NAKAGAWA
WILL INDEED VISIT NEW ZEALAND NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING HIS
TRADE TALKS IN AUSTRALIA. THE POSITION OF THE GOVERN-
MENT OF NEW ZEALAND (GNZ) ON THIS SUBJECT IS THAT
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MR. NAKAGAWA IS MOST WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY BUT THAT
THE GNZ COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY PRECONDITIONS, I.E.,
AGREEMENT TO BEGIN FISHERIES TALKS, TO SUCH A VISIT.
AS OF YESTERDAY, THE GNZ HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INDI-
CATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON MR. NAKAGAWA'S
TRAVEL PLANS AND SEEMS PREPARED TO LEAVE THE MATTER OF
THE VISIT WHOLLY IN JAPANESE HANDS.

2. FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE, IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH OF THE OPTIMISM GENERATED BY THE MAY 19 MULDOON-SUZUKI TALKS IN MELBOURNE (REFTELS A AND B) HAS EVAPORATED. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND HAS AGREED TO "REEXAMINE" THE EARLIER JAPANESE OFFERS (REF B), OFFICIALS HERE DOUBT SUCH A DETAILED REEXAMINATION WILL LEAD TO MUCH AS LONG AS PRIME MINISTER MULDOON CONTINUES TO FIND THE BASIC JAPANESE OFFERS "INADEQUATE." THIS POINT WAS UNDERSCORED THIS WEEK BY THE CLAIM OF THE PRIMIN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAD ACTUALLY STEPPED BACK FROM EARLIER OFFERS ("ONE OF THE CURIOUS FEATURES OF THIS EXERCISE IS THAT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WERE PUT FORWARD AS PROPOSALS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN MODIFIED ADVERSELY.") THE PM DECLINED TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS STATEMENT. MEDIA REPORTS ALSO INDICATE RECENT NEW ZEALAND DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY ON THIS MATTER HAD BEEN LESS THAN SATISFACTORY, WHILE OUR OWN CONTACTS REPORT A TOTALLY UNRESPONSIVE ATTITUDE ON TRADE MATTERS FROM THE JAPANESE IN THE MTN.

3. THE PICTURE, THEN, FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT IS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. HOPEFULLY, SAY THE NEW ZEALANDERS, AN INDICATION THAT MR. NAKAGAWA WILL INDEED VISIT HERE WILL INDICATE TOKYO'S DESIRE TO KEEP TALKING. OTHER-CONFIDENTIAL

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WISE IT APPEARS AS IF NEITHER SIDE IS PREPARED TO EVEN BLINK. SELDEN

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NNN

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